

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend Claims 26, 63, and 70, all as shown below.

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented) A method for generating a unified user profile for providing to a user or application transparent access to a personalization database and an external user database, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a first business logic component adapted to work through a personalization server to access said personalization database, wherein said first business logic component provides a transparent interface to a user or application through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database, and further wherein the access is carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the personalization database;

(b) generating a unified user profile by creating a second business logic component to extend the first business logic component such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be transparently retrieved from and updated in an external user database independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the external user database;

(c) wherein the first business logic component and the second business logic component allow the user or application to access data in the personalization database and the external user database independent of any knowledge of the data's location;

(d) wherein the extended first business logic component uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in said personalization database; and further wherein said implicit and explicit properties comprise getter and setter properties; and

(e) obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended first business logic component.

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[24]] 25, further comprising the step of configuring a server to provide said read and write access.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein said server is the personalization server.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said external user database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership.

30-62. (Canceled).

63. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a server, cause the server to perform the steps of:

(a) obtaining a first business logic component adapted to work through the server to access a first database, wherein said first business logic component provides a transparent interface to a user or application through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved from and updated in the first database independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the first database;

(b) generating a unified user profile by creating a second business logic component to extend the first business logic component such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be transparently retrieved from and updated in a second database, wherein the access is carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the second database;

(c) wherein the first business logic component and the second business logic component allow the user or application to access data in the first database and the second database independent of any knowledge of the data's location;

(d) wherein the extended first business logic component uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in the

first database; and further wherein the extended ~~base user JAVABEAN~~ first business logic component utilizes getter and setter properties; and

(e) wherein the medium further causes the server to obtain a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in the first database and the second database.

64. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 63, wherein the medium further causes the server to generate transparent read and write access to the second database through the extended said first business logic component.

65-67. (Canceled).

68. (Previously Presented) A computer-based system for use in generating a unified user profile for providing transparent access to a personalization database and an external user database, comprising:

(a) a first business logic component adapted to work through a personalization server to access said personalization database, wherein said first business logic component provides a transparent interface to a user or application through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the personalization database;

(b) a second business logic component that extends the first business logic component such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be transparently retrieved from and updated in an external user database, wherein the access is carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the external user database;

(c) wherein the first business logic component and the second business logic component allow the user or application to access data in the personalization database and the external user database independent of any knowledge of the data's location;

(d) wherein the extended first business logic component uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in said personalization database and further wherein the extended first business logic component utilizes getter and setter properties; and

(e) wherein the system further comprises a means of obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the system further comprises a means of generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended first business logic component.

70. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[68]]~~ 69, wherein the system further comprises a means of configuring a server to provide said read and write access.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said server is the personalization server.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said external user database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership.

74-76. (Canceled).